

CLYDESIDE



Red Fox

HUNT

SABOTEURS

CLYDE
SIDE

SAVING THE FOX - ACTION AGAINST BLOODSPORTS



Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs



"NEMERESHIRE REPORT 1986-87"

THINK

SABOTEURS

Introduction - Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs have been operative in Renfrewshire since 1981. Our group is affiliated to the national Hunt Saboteurs Association and we engage in direct, but peaceful, action to save the lives of hunted animals in Renfrewshire - many people do not realise how much hunting goes on in the countryside around Glasgow and Paisley. The Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhunt is based in the village of Houston, near Paisley and they hunt from September to March every Saturday and Tuesday.



Hunt Saboteurs fight for wildlife in the very fields where it is threatened, harrassed and mutilated by unimaginative human beings in the name of sport. Our objective is to make bloodsports unworkable, impractical and obsolete through a campaign of NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION. Our short term aim in our area is to

save as many animals from the hunt as possible, whilst drawing people's attention to the sadistic practice of foxhunting and, in the longer term, to hasten the day when bloodsports are abolished by law: until then, as Ian Noble states in "Scots Magazine", 'The foxhunt Saboteurs decided that direct intervention was the only effective way to even up the odds a little.'

Foxhunting is a cruel and unnecessary practice which has no place in a genuinely civilised society. Scientific and ecological research has proved conclusively that foxes are NOT a pest, their species does NOT require any form of human control and, contrary to myths perpetuated by hunters (to justify their sordid 'sport') foxes do infinitely more GOOD than harm in our countryside.

This however is not a report on the arguments against foxhunting, but rather, on the actions of Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs over a full hunting season and an analysis of our effect.....

CUBHUNTING - It is NOT natural for hounds to hunt foxes; they must be trained to do this - the activity is known as 'cubbing', which basically means the hunt killing as many young foxes as possible to ensure the hounds acquire a taste for blood.



In Renfrewshire, cubhunting commences in September and lasts until the end of October. This season Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs attended all the hunt's Saturday meets and were so successful that, not only were no young foxes killed, but the Lanarkshire/

The education of a foxhound

Sir, — In about two months' time foxhunting will be rearing its bloody head up again in the Scottish countryside as well as most other parts of Britain. The opening hunt will start on November 1 but two months before that, the huntsman must train his young hounds in the so-called art of hunting and killing foxes. The best way of doing this is by letting them taste blood. So before the opening hunt, hounds are taken out cub-hunting. This is the side the hunting fraternity do not want the public to see or hear about.

Cubbing is an established practice in foxhunting. It involves the hunt taking young hounds to a small wood where there is known to be a litter of fox cubs. Firstly, hunt supporters will position themselves around the wood. The huntsman and staff then take the young hounds inside the surrounded wood. As the hunt staff and hounds make their way through the wood, the young, inexperienced cubs will run away from their mother. If a cub is seen leaving the wood it will be frightened back in by the mounted hunt supporters, who will be shouting and

slapping their saddles with their crops. The frightened cub will then be scared back into the very jaws of the hounds.

It is a terrible scene. Young hounds, lacking experience of the older hounds, are not quite sure how to deal with the cubs. They bite the cubs and are usually bitten back. But the older hounds show them how to kill the cubs, both treating them as something to kill and something to play with. With a 'goild scuffle, fur, flesh, and blood fly in all directions.

This is the young hound's education. It has been going on for hundreds of years and is still happening. It is now 1983. How much longer can a civilised community tolerate such behaviour from the selfish minority intent on chasing wild animals to death? It is morally unacceptable and I, with many other concerned people, will be out protesting and trying to save the helpless and defenceless animals from the hands of the hunt.

Martin Benson,
Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs.
44 Belsyde Avenue, Glasgow.

and Renfrewshire's (L & R) 'cubbing' degenerated into a series of miniature hunts making for very poor training for young foxhounds. Over these two months hunt officials and supporters continuously threatened Saboteurs with violence. Several officials, including Secret hunt staff, huntsman and terriermen have been convicted for assault on Saboteurs and once again their threats became reality with the F

official hunt of the season.

NOVEMBER — Traditionally, the 1st of November heralds the start of the foxhunting season proper. The L & R hunt met at Houston, and were greeted by 130 anti-hunt demonstrators, most of whom then encircled the area and engaged in peaceful action to save any hunted foxes.



The hunt left Houston just before noon and after about 1½ hours, chased a fox to its earth. It was at this point that the hunt threats turned to serious violence. To quote from Ian once again, 'The spade brigade had already begun to dig the fox out when we all arrived' — Saboteurs tried to place themselves between the fox and its would-be killers — 'Anyone who attempted to sit down over the hole was dragged away by the terriermen. The Hunt Saboteurs response, as usual, was to place even more people around the hole in a bid to stop them from digging any further, whilst another Saboteur attempted to unblock another exit from which the fox could bolt to freedom. But this was the first hunt of the season, they had to get a fox. How could they let such a glorious day of pageantry end without at least one kill? That would be too embarrassing, they had to dig this fox out. It might be their only chance.' The terriermen were desperate, and desperate men can be dangerous. They tried, in vain, to scare the Saboteurs away with verbal abuse. In desperation and frustration

at their inability to kill this fox, using branches and spades they began to lash out at their opponents.

HUNT THUG BROUGHT TO BOOK



HUNT VIOLENCE IN SCOTLAND: A supporter of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH wades in with a stick (left). The seated saboteur (right) had his cheekbone smashed by John Waters' spade.

By the time Police arrived, two Saboteurs, both of whom were out on their very first hunt, were lying virtually motionless on the ground. One had been severely bruised, the other, hit in the face with a spade and concussed' - Both Saboteurs had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. The Saboteur who had been assaulted with the spade had to undergo emergency surgery to rebuild a multi-fractured cheekbone. Due to brave and determined intervention by Saboteurs THIS FOX ESCAPED THE BLOODLUST OF THE HUNT - 'The hunt continued until about half past two when they gave up in despair. They had lost their hounds and had not killed one fox. We had won the day but at what cost to us? Our ideal of nonviolent opposition had stood tall, but two of our friends had fallen.....The truth behind the pageantry and red coats is that foxhunting is a very cruel and dangerous 'sport' that relies upon a 'bloodlust'. They revel in death and violence. Surely it must be time for them to abandon the killing fields. Parliament could ban bloodsports. It is up to you, isn't it? The Hunt Saboteurs are trying.' Thankfully both Ian and Paul recovered fully; indeed a dazed but very determined Ian was back out to Sabotage the Following Saturday's hunt. We had to wait until 23rd Jun '87 for the consequent Sherriff Court appearance of John Waters, the hunt terrierman. Despite boasting to other hunters, about his part in the vicious assault, Waters, who was actually disowned by the hunt Secretary, Grant Forrest (who also has a criminal record for assault on a sixteen year old female Saboteur) pled 'Not Guilty'. The Sherriff saw through the hunt's tissue of lies and, after an emotive plea by his/

Solicitor against a custodial sentence, he received a fine of £300. It will be interesting to see what effect (if any) this most recent fine and conviction has on the violent behaviour of the hunt officials and supporters.

Meanwhile, back to the hunt.....the following Saturday, November 8th, saw another 130 protestors out against the hunt: The first time over 100 Saboteurs have attended two consecutive hunts, confirming that violence never works. In torrential rain, Saboteurs stuck 'doggedly' with hounds throughout the day ensuring another 'bl' for the hunt - NO KILLS. Saboteurs encouraged by the success of their actions, and resolved to direct their anger about the injuries to Ian and Paul in a positive way, now started to organise for the capability of sabotaging both Tuesday and Saturday meets of the L & R. i.e. each and every hunt. That Tuesday 11th November, three carloads of activists arrived at St. Brydes, near Howwood. Supporters of the hunt had already assembled but officials decided to cancel, ostensibly due to 'bad weather'. Given the torrential rain just three days before, when the L & R continued to hunt, Saboteurs claimed the credit for this cancellation.

In fact, out of a total of nine hunt meets during November, Clydeside HSA attended 5. The hunt's violence certainly had an effect which was not intended! Numbers of active Saboteurs evened out to between 40 and 80 on each Saturday for the remainder of the year. DOUBLE THAT OF THE PREVIOUS SEASONS.

On November 15th, the hunt actually chased FOUR foxes from one wood. Sabs moved quickly into action and, after pulling hounds away from redcoats with horn and voice calls, all the foxes escaped, much to the frustration of the hunt. Later that same day after the L & R huntsman had gathered his hounds together once again, the hunt crossed through Gleniffer Braes Country Park, near Paisley. A few weeks afterwards it was discovered that a member of the public had made a written complaint about this incident to local Council officials. To their credit, Renfrew District Council, who in 1980 took a policy decision to ban the hunt from their land, took action via their Legal Section, informing the hunt, in no uncertain terms that their trespassing was not to be tolerated. At the end of the season Clydeside HSA representatives were invited to a meeting with R.D.C., where Councillors and Legal Officials re-newed their commitment against hunting and provided up-dated maps showing newly acquired land now under Council control - another HUNT FREE ZONE.

On 29th November, the hunt met at Gateside near Beith. Unfortunately, the HESSILHEAD WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE is situated directly in the hunt's usual path. After continuous harassment by the hunt over the last few years, Gay and Andy Christie, who run the centre for the rehabilitation of injured wild animals, finally threatened legal action against the hunt. Significantly this action ensured the hunt gave Hesselhead a wide berth. Throughout the day Saboteurs successfully intervened on behalf of the fox - NO KILLS. It should be noted that landowners and farmers are turning increasingly against the hunt in Renfrewshire, the proprietors of Hall Farm near Howwood, for instance, are considering similar legal action, if the hunt continue to ignore repeated warnings. This concern stems from the fact that, during the previous season 1985-86, the L & R hunt dug out and killed a fox on this land despite being asked to leave by

The article below is conceived and written by Derek Parker, a regular contributor to the local Paisley Daily Express - he also follows the hunt at EVERY meet: you can decide on the extent of Mr. Parker's journalistic objectivity.....

By DEREK PARKER

This observation resurged in the country magazine, 'The Field,' on November 7, 1934, as appropriate today as it was half a century ago — as recent events in the Banlowsheire countryside here

People online are all the poets or novelists with country life might be inclined to think the conflict was simply between those who "bill for fun" and peasant protesters and idealists out to protect losses — a scenario deliberately cultivated by opponents of hunting in their regular use of emotive language, such as "bloodsports, barbaric, and hunt theft" in their efforts to gain public sympathy for their cause.

concerned

The Labour Party, for example, has received thousands of pounds from the League Against Cruel Sports to further its election campaign — and in its election manifesto the Labour Party has vowed to abolish hunting with hounds while, at the same time, encouraging angling.

Sometimes the play of bringing politics into field sports backfires, however.

Threatened

While the 'foot-sloggers' are getting cold, tired, and wet, their leaders — usually radical, middle-class students, dilettantes or even mass-mining the campus in a serious and mindless letter to newspapers, alleging brutality by hant followers towards "peaceful protestors" or criticizing the police for arresting anti-hant demonstrators with baton charges across fields and between fences.

Pursued

Not even the most avid anti-field sports crusader can deny that the highest fox populations are to be found in hunting areas — a seeming anomaly for which

The second reason for the high number of losses in hunting was is that it is the fittest and strongest that survive — thus reducing the risk of diseases such as mange, which is spread by weaker specimens and also curtailing the amount of culpine competition for food, so ensuring

Declined

It is absurd, therefore, for anyone to think that if hunting would be better off or what they would spend the remainder of their days wandering idly through the countryside.

In the same way that rabbit, grouse and partridge populations declined in areas where these creatures were not

There are, of course, many people who would argue that jobs which depend on the killing of wild creatures are not worth preserving flowever. One would expect the interests of zoologists, those subscribing to this view would also oppose the United Kingdom motor car industry because each year between 30

The truth is that most people who ride to hounds do so not to see loose killed but purely for the pleasure of galloping across the countryside and jumping walls, fences, and hedges, something which, according to the sponsors of hunting, they will still be denied even if the follow artificial trails.

It is to the inhabitants of the countryside, including those in rural Benin where, it is still their "great autumn entertainment," enshrining age-old traditions and deeply rooted in their heritage.

It is a way of life which they will not give up easily — especially as those who want to abolish it know little or nothing about the Beninwhita countryside and its wildlife and whose opposition to hunting is based primarily on political and sociology motives rather than on a genuine conservation concern.

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MAN IS INJURED IN CLASHES ON HUNT

ONE man is still in hospital following the "one day" clashes between local hunt-men and protesters.

And police are this morning continuing investigations into the violence which erupted at the weekend.

Anti-blood sport activist Ian Milne, from Glasgow, suffered severe facial injuries during a demonstration at the first meeting of the hunt on Saturday at Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire. He was taken to hospital under the care of local specialists. And as he undergoes treatment,

anti-legalists claim: "It was severe in the face with a couple of broken bones. Violence was done. There were more than 100 protesters demonstrated."

The hunt had chased a fox in the area of Glasgow, but the hunt was broken up by the police. It was there that the clash occurred. Ian Milne, 32, was hit in the face by a dog. He was taken to hospital under the care of local specialists. And as he undergoes treatment,

didn't turn into a real hunt. Before police arrived, many animals, including a fox, were killed. Ian Milne, 32, was hit in the face by a dog. He was taken to hospital under the care of local specialists. And as he undergoes treatment,

Two hurt at Foxhunt's opening Meet

At the first meeting of the Renfrewshire & Lanarkshire Hunt on Saturday, 11 November, there were more than 100 protesters. One of the protesters, Ian Milne, 32, was hit in the face by a dog. He was taken to hospital under the care of local specialists. And as he undergoes treatment,

Where I come from in West Renfrewshire, many people on horseback and on foot, enjoy a Saturday afternoon with the Lanark and Renfrew Hunt. The hunt has been going on for over 100 years. It is a very popular sport in the area. The hunt has been going on for over 100 years. It is a very popular sport in the area.

Saboteurs claim assault at fox hunt

Strathclyde Police are investigating alleged assault on two anti-foxhunting demonstrators after the first hunt of the season by Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds at the weekend.

Clydehead Hunt Saboteurs Association claimed that one of its members, Mr Ian Milne, was struck in the face with a shovel after he came upon two "terrier men" trying to take a fox out of its earth.

Another saboteur, Mr John Jones, said last night that Mr Milne (22), a Glasgow marine engineer, had placed himself between the two men and the earth at Crichton Hill Woods, near Houston, in Renfrewshire, when another hunt dog driver tried to take a fox out of its earth.

Mr Milne was reported to be "comfortable" last night after an operation to mend a fractured cheekbone in Paisley's Royal Alexandra Infirmary.

Mr Jones said there had been a brief scuffle between the terrier men and about 30 saboteurs in which another demonstrator was slightly hurt. The saboteurs' opponents had disappeared into the wood when police arrived.

The joint master of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds, Mr William Ross, said last night that he had later heard various stories of a scuffle.

Police last night confirmed they were investigating a complaint of assault on two people.

Hunt saboteurs act within law

SIR.—I am writing in response to your recent editorial comment "The S.P." No. 22) on the Lanark and Renfrew hunt and the activities of the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Firstly, I must point out that the fact is "a game pest". Scientists and biologists have studied the fox in its natural environment over a number of years and have concluded that the fox will utilize the most readily available source of food which it usually shuns and other small rodents and fruits. The fox does not threaten sheep, nor does it bite through wire fencing in noisy chicken. Neither does the fox population need to be controlled by man. Recently, a study has shown that the fox is perfectly capable of controlling its own numbers and only breeds in areas which can really support them. I challenge you to defend your claim with hard evidence.

As far as your comments about the hunt saboteurs go, I would like to put the following points to you.

I must say that I share your concern over people "taking the law into their own hands". On November 1, a notorious assassin, an Irishman, who had come out to witness a hunt for the first time, was seriously assaulted and had in under an hour been arrested in a police van. The police are clamping down on that hunt. A man has been arrested in connection with that assault.

Finally, I would like to put the following idea to you in the form of a "L & R" hunt. Turn it into a dog hunt and you will be left, in peace, to charge around the countryside to your heart's content.

Hunt saboteurs taken to hospital

BY HUGH BARNES.—The Clyde Hunt Saboteurs Association alleged last night that after a demonstration at the hunt in Houston, Renfrewshire, on Saturday, the protesters intervened between the fox and the fox, which had been chased to earth.

The association alleged that various people broke out involving themselves in the hunt. Two of the saboteurs were injured.

Mr Grant Forrest, secretary of the Foxhounds, denied that the protesters were associated with the hunt. "They were people unknown to us, not with us," he said.

A police spokesman said last night: "We are investigating the incident."

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Finally, I would like to put the following idea to you in the form of a "L & R" hunt. Turn it into a dog hunt and you will be left, in peace, to charge around the countryside to your heart's content.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies to sabotage fox hunts and not dog hunts.

In fact, I will go on the as in say that if you change from foxhunting to dog hunting we will run the first dog hunt for you and I promise we will give you a good day's work!

IAN MUIR, Clydehead Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.

This month, the L & R hunt stopped advertising any of their meets. They obviously did not appreciate being outnumbered by Saboteurs every Saturday, or the increasingly regular Tuesday attentions of the 'antis'. On 6th December, Saboteurs acting upon 'reliable information' sent two cars to locate the hunt, leaving the main group at a central point, in case the information proved incorrect. The hunt was indeed at Belltrees Farm, confirming our information, and were at first very complacent seeing only 10 Saboteurs. Within thirty minutes another 60 Saboteurs arrived and a very shocked hunt simply galloped with hounds the mile or so to Bowfield Country Club, boxing hounds by 1.00pm - the shortest 'hunt' of the season. Due to the severe weather hunting was cancelled for the next three weeks until 26th December when the L & R hold their traditional Boxing Day meet at Corsliehill, near Houston. Forty Saboteurs were delighted to see that the hunt and their supporters were reduced by some 50% compared with their corresponding meet for 1985. Again, NO KILLS and 1986 ended with the hunt meeting on 30th December at Meikle Cloak, from where they proceeded to hunt quite deliberately through Muirshiel Country Park. Saboteurs took photographs before taking the whole pack away from their huntsman, who spent the rest of the day trying to locate his hounds. Our evidence was subsequently shown to Council officials who assure us that the issue of hunting on Regional Council land will be investigated and dealt with as soon as possible.



Renfrewshire & Lanark Hunt

On New Years Day, due to weather conditions and lack of transport, only one car load of Saboteurs were able to engage the hunt. As it happened, this proved ample allies for the fox and the meet at Gateside began 1987 as we had finished 1986 - NO KILLS and a resounding triumph for the small but committed number of Saboteurs who were able to make it to Gateside.

SEVERAL meets were held over the Holiday period with Boxing Day traditionally the best attended. Nowadays, hunts are reluctant to publicise their venues because of the possibility of trouble and demonstrations from Anti Hunt Factions. Opponents of the hunt argue that fox hunting and, indeed, all blood sports are cruel and unnecessary. Land owners, huntsmen and farmers, on the other hand say that foxes are a nuisance and need to be kept under check. Last year, out of approximately 240 meets, the total number of foxes actually caught by the



Hounds waiting patiently on Ne'erday morning outside a local tavern while members of Renfrewshire & Lanark Hunt had the traditional dram.

local Hunt was only in the period since the ber that number is actually caught by the seven and this season, beginning of Novem- NINE!

The following article from a local newspaper summed up the L & R's season so far. JANUARY - Once again snow and severe frost resulted in most of this months hunts being cancelled. Clydeside HSA next encountered the L & R hunt at Commore, near

Neilston on 24th January. It was soon very obvious the hunt were getting very desperate for a kill. After a relatively short chase a fox was forced to seek refuge in a drain, hounds and huntsman closing in what the hunt hoped would be a dramatic, if prolonged finish. 'Dig her out' was the cry of the redcoats as their grovelling minnions with the spades arrived. The terriermen moved in to dislodge and kill their quarry. Saboteurs would not leave the fox to lie: guarding this fox by sitting over the drain entrance, refusing to leave when the Police arrived. Nine activists were charged with 'Breach of the Peace' for simply refusing to leave the fox to its fate; Carol arrested for the first time in her life, explains 'I was totally disgusted and amazed at all these people (the hunt) standing about waiting for the fox to be killed, to be murdered just for 'sport' - they were enjoying the situation: what pleasure can people get out of such suffering? I was going to get arrested - THIS was worth getting arrested for, and I'll do it again to try and save the life of any persecuted animal or person.' Carol and Clydeside HSA proved true to their non-violent but direct principle - they accepted arrest but SAVED THE FOX.

Nine are arrested at local fox hunt

HUNT saboteurs had a field day by rescuing a trapped fox. But according to police their act of protection ended with nine people being arrested.

A team of protesters brought havoc to the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt which set off near to Commore Farm, Neilston, at the weekend.

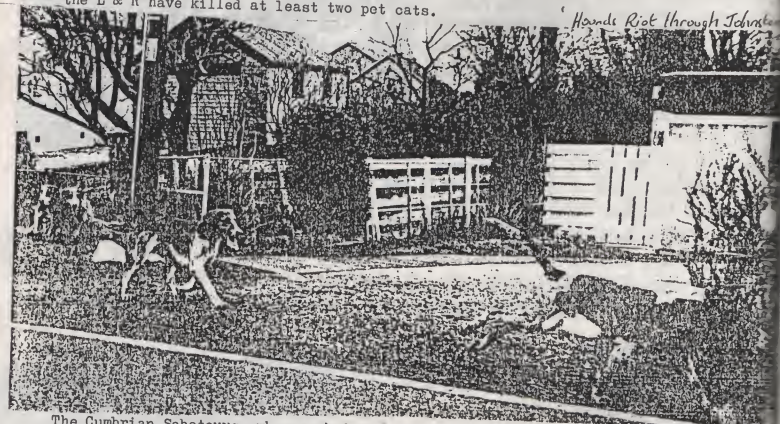
But as the army of horses and dogs reached Keeper's Lodge Road the pursued fox took shelter in an underground pipe.

Seemingly, words became heated between sides when the protesters kept huntsmen and their dogs at bay.

Later a police spokesman said nine people were arrested ... and they will appear in court at a later date.

And the cunning fox ... it escaped unscathed.

FEBRUARY - During February, out of possible eight hunts, Saboteurs attended six. This was the first season that Clydeside HSA had proved capable of sabotaging both Tuesday and Saturday hunts on a regular basis. On 7th February, we were joined by comrades from the newly formed Cumbrian HSA. Midway through the day, hounds were pulled away from a fox which had fled through a Johnstone Housing Estate, its tormentors in hot pursuit. Had Saboteurs not been present, not only may this fox have died, but local pets may also have fallen victim to the jaws of the hounds. At the L & R have killed at least two pet cats.



The Cumbrian Saboteurs, whom we had met last month whilst participating in a Border T.V. debate about foxhunting, returned from their first action in Scotland to organise the first locally initiated sabotage of the Coniston Foxhunt. A group of Clydeside Saboteurs travelled to Cumbria on 21st February to engage in a well organised day of action against the Coniston hunt, resulting in a 'blank' day for this fell pack - NO KILLS.

Back home in Renfrewshire, an unusual and very satisfying incident highlighted the 1st February meet, when the hunt, leaving from the Gryffe Hotel, Bridge of Weir, lost a fox after successful intervention by Saboteurs between here and Kilmacolm: whilst a couple of Saboteurs were confronted by an unpleasant group of terriermen who tried to debate the pros and cons of fox control, the fox itself ran directly behind the terriermen and escaped as the latter struggled to put together a coherent argument! The fox obviously decided s/he did not require to be controlled!! During this exchange when their quarry escaped unnoticed, the terriermen boasted that, 'We (the hunt) have got four (foxes) so far.' Assuming this claim to be correct, which it may not be, it was even fewer than last season when the hunt claimed seven. It also served to redouble our group's resolve to ensure no more foxes died at the hands of the hunt for the rest of the season.

MARCH - There were four hunt meets scheduled for the remainder of the L & R's season. 3rd, 7th, 10th and 14th of March. Clydeside HSA made sure that all were attended.

determined organisation meant that all the final six hunts were successfully sabotaged by the HSA (given our attentions on 24th and 28th February) The hunt of 7th March was cancelled due to heavy snow, therefore Saboteurs, once again accompanied by our friends from the fells of Cumbria, raced across the Central belt of Scotland in time to support the Edinburgh Saboteurs, who were ensuring the Linlithgow and Stirling shire Foxhunt failed to kill on their final meet of the season near Balerno.

Saturday 14th March brought us to the L & R's last hunt of the season at West Glen Farm near Kilmalcolm. NO FOXES HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE L & R WHENEVER SABOTEURS WERE THERE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. The stage was therefore set for a very tense encounter with the hunt: Saboteurs determined no fox would die; hunt officials determined to satisfy their bloodlust on this, their final meet.

Hounds entered the first wood and apparently picked up a strong 'scent': just where a Saboteur had laid a false trail (using fox bedding from an Edinburgh contact). This tactic worked well for a full forty minutes until the huntsman realised he was being taken for a ride in more than on sense! Hounds were gathered after 'rioting' after a Roe Deer which fortunately escaped, were eventually taken to another wood further from the meet.

For Louise, this was her first season as a Hunt Saboteur and she too was desperately keen to ensure it did not end with a kill. The following is an account of the subsequent event; a personal and emotive account for which the writers make no apology:

'Pretty soon it became evident that something was going on in the wood. Myself and a handful of Saboteurs climbed over the dividing fence and past the field (the term field is given to mounted followers of the hunt) who were still waiting around. They hadn't done anything else all day. As we drew nearer to the fence surrounding the wood, I could hear the dogs in 'full cry'.. I began to feel sick and began and started shaking with fear. I clutched my friend's hand. I told her I was frightened and didn't know what to do. She just kept telling me it would be alright and we climbed the fence and entered the wood. Standing all around were hunt officials who started obstructing us and giving verbal abuse. I was terrified, I thought a redcoat was going to hit my friend. We were clutching onto each other; they were making fun of us because of this.

Gerry, another Saboteur who was in front of us, arrived at the fox earth. The dogs were scrabbling and barking at the earth. Gerry jumped down into the earth and started pulling out the hounds. I really started to panic, I could feel my fear and anger all rising up inside me. When I looked around all I could see were terriermen, their dogs and other hunters. They didn't care; they were laughing and smiling. The next thing I realised I had started to cry; I felt so helpless: there was a fox down there with hounds and hunt waiting for the kill, the huntsmen was calling, 'Dig him out boys', suddenly I lost control and started to scream for people to help us. Now other Saboteurs had reached the scene and some went to the help of Gerry. The rest of us sat down in the earth to keep the hounds and terriermen out. Someone was trying to calm me down. Hunt officials were laughing at me, but soon stopped as more and more Saboteurs piled into the earth. I cried out for more people to join us - suddenly there were over THIRTY determined Saboteurs in and around the fox's refuge. WE had taken control and/

were defending OUR fox. The Police, called by a now frustrated hunt came into the wood and asked us to leave. Everyone appreciated the possible consequences but assured the Police, who by now had the landowners representative with them, that we were not moving. The atmosphere between the Saboteurs was fantastic, everyone was so positive. The Police, realising our determination, then spoke to the hunt officials saying that WE were not going to move and therefore they (the hunt) would have to! The hunt were really angry about this, but the Police stressed the fact that there were just too many Saboteurs to make effective arrests and they therefore had no alternative but to ask everyone to leave. With no alternative, the hunt in a very angry mood, reluctantly left - WE'D WON!

Louise's words and feelings clearly need no explanation - a very dejected hunt moved away, half heartedly casting their hounds into a wood near Houston where another Saboteur group took the pack away from their huntsman using effective horn calls almost immediately. Ironically some stray hounds did manage to 'put up' a fox with the huntsman no where near. Only one hunt supporter saw the fox, but as he hurried off to find a redcoat (hollering was useless as hunt officials would assume it was Saboteurs calling to mislead them!) Saboteurs called hounds off allowing this fox to escape easily. Saboteurs action at the would-be dig out lasted a full hour and it was now just after 2.00pm. By 2.30pm, the hunt conceded defeat, gathering hounds (having lost many), and returning via the road with a Police escort to the Houston Kennels CLYDESDALE HSA HAD WON THE DAY AND THE SEASON.



A statistical analysis of 1986-87 Foxhunting season in Renfrewshire.

Possible L & R hunts	39	
Cancelled	13	(HSA claim at least one of these was due to our unexpected arrival at the meet)
Actual L & R hunting days	26	
Hunts attended by HSA	23	(of which 4 were cancelled when HSA arrived - 3 genuinely to bad weather, one, as above)
Hunts effectively sabbed	19	
Number of foxes 'claimed'	4	(As stated these are only claims and not witnessed kills)
Hunts not sabotaged	7	
Number of foxes killed whilst Saboteurs were Present	0	

CONCLUSION - We see then that the L & R foxhunt enjoyed only seven days hunting which were free from the attentions of Hunt Saboteurs. Assuming the hunt claims to be correct, then, only four foxes were killed in the name of 'sport' throughout the season. To the best of our knowledge, this is the most unsuccessful season the L & R have ever had and obviously belies their claim that the hunt is a significant controlling factor of the fox - were the reader to assume (wrongly we believe) that any fox control was in fact necessary.

From an alternative viewpoint however, we often hear it said that the L & R are a poor 'non-killing' hunt. This opinion, we suggest is incorrect and, in support of our argument, ask the reader to consider that, firstly, if it were not for our direct intervention at digouts, the total number of kills would have been at least DOUBLED (Saboteurs intervened at a minimum of four digouts and, remember, there are often more than one fox in any refuge); secondly, the hunt claim four kills, FOUR TOO MANY and an average of one every second hunt while Saboteurs were not around. Consider, then, the outcome if Clydeside HSA had not been around for the majority of the hunts.

Bloodsports abolition is our aim BUT until an acceptable Law reaches the Statute Book there is only one way to combat foxhunting - BY DIRECTLY ENGAGING EACH HUNT EVERY TIME THEY TRY TO KILL. This was Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs most successful season ever: YOU/

CAN FIGURE THAT OUR GROUP GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH UNTIL EXHAUSTING IN REPER-
SHINE IS MADE COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE. Then, the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhunt
will have a choice - to either cease to exist - Most people do not want them, anyway -
or change to a 'Draghunt' (Following a false trail where no animal dies).
If you wish to join and/or support Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs, please contact us at
Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs, P O Box 307, Glasgow.

This report was compiled by Clydeside HSA.

Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Fox Hounds

WILL MEET AT 11.30 a.m.

NOVEMBER, 1986

Sat.	1	Houston House	*Mr. G. Forrest
		Opening Meet 11 a.m.	
Tue.	4	Moniabrock	
Sat.	8	Mid Gavin	*Mrs. R. Campbell
Tue.	11	St. Brydes	
Sat.	15	Bird in Hand	*Mr. N. Oliver
Tue.	18	Gryffe Arms	
Sat.	22	Lugton Inn	*Mr. J. Love
Tue.	25	West Kilbride	
Sat.	29	Gateside	*Mrs. A. Muirhead

xxxxxxxxxxxx

*Gate Shutter

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 1986

Sat.	1	Tally Ho Ball — Johnstone Town Hall
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Terrier Men

The thugs with spades and terriers are a part of every Hunt. Not for them, riding across country or following on foot. They follow the Hunt in Landrovers eagerly awaiting a call from the Huntsmen when the exhausted fox finds an 'unstoppered' refuge. The terrier men then put their dogs down the earth in an attempt to 'bait' the fox and force it to run again for its life. If the fox refuses to bait perhaps because it is physically incapable or is defending its cub, then the terriers keep it under attack, allowing the terrier men to dig down to it. When the fox is exposed it may be shot, or thrown alive to the waiting hounds or put into a sack and taken some distance away to be released for further hunting. Our investigators have witnessed all three practices and full admissions that such things occur have been made by leading huntsmen. Another nasty little trick employed by these people is the cutting of the captured fox's feet before it is released for the hounds to chase.

Trailing its own blood the fox has no chance of escape. Huntsmen of course deny the existence of such practices as 'bagging foxes' but the evidence of disguised fox hunters and our own filmed evidence renders the facts indisputable.

There is no doubt that these brutal terrier men are not content with torturing foxes. Many use their dogs for the illegal "sports" of badger digging and baiting.

The offences which reach the courts are only the tip of the iceberg. We know that some old school fox hunters are privately appalled at the cruelty of terrier men. Occasionally, some are even prepared to reveal their fears publicly. Famous Hunting enthusiast J.N.P. Watson, wrote in "The Field" in October 1982:

"Clearly the burgeoning of the (supporters) clubs has produced a considerable growth in the 'Terrier-and-spade brigade'... it seems to me a great shame that now, when fox-hunting has so many enemies and we are endeavouring to present an image of fair play and sportsmanship, that there is greater callousness than ever before."

*To hunt solo
from front
the fox*